LIBERTY THROUGH UNITY

JOINT REGION EDGE

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On the Ground: An F-15 Eagle and other aircraft from Kadena Air Base, Japan park on the flightline at Andersen Air Force Base Sept. 17. The aircraft were evacuated here from Kadena due to the typhoon threat in Okinawa, Japan and inclement weather throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Historically, aircraft from throughout the region have evacuated to Andersen in times of threatening weather to ensure no damage occurs to the aircraft. U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Carlin Leslie/Released

36th Wing provides consistent evacuation support in Asia-Pacific

By Airman 1st Class Marianique Santos
36th Wing Public Affairs

With tsunami threats recently pervading the Asia-Pacific region, the 36th Wing on Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) has been actively exercising its capabilities of providing evacuation support to neighboring bases while simultaneously accommodating some of the largest joint and coalition exercises in the region.

"This year the activity in the water has been pretty heavy so it seems every other week we received evacuating aircraft," said Master Sgt. Anthony Matthews, 36th Operations Support Squadron (OSS) airfield manager.

The reception working group on Andersen AFB receives evacuating aircraft and make sure the Airmen associated with those aircraft are accommodated. The group is made up of different operation and support units on base.

"It's more than just parking aircraft;

See **Support**, Page 7

Navy, Coast Guard recognize ombudsmen on Guam

By Shaina Marie Santos
Joint Region Edge Staff

The Navy and Coast Guard on Guam recognized its ombudsmen during an annual appreciation luncheon at the Top O' the Mar in Asan Sept. 21.

During the event, key speaker Capt. Mike Ward, commanding officer, U.S. Naval Base Guam, shared his experiences in communicating with ombudsmen and expressed his gratitude to those who sacrifice their time to support military families.

"At the CO, XO (Executive Officer) and

See **Program**, Page 7

Appreciation: Navy and Coast Guard ombudsmen gather for a photo with U.S. Naval Base Guam Commanding Officer Capt. Mike Ward during an annual ombudsman appreciation luncheon at the Top O' the Mar in Asan Sept. 21. During the luncheon, the Navy and Coast Guard recognized its ombudsmen's dedication and volunteerism. U.S. Navy photo by Shaina Marie Santos/Released

Andersen fire department stays ready

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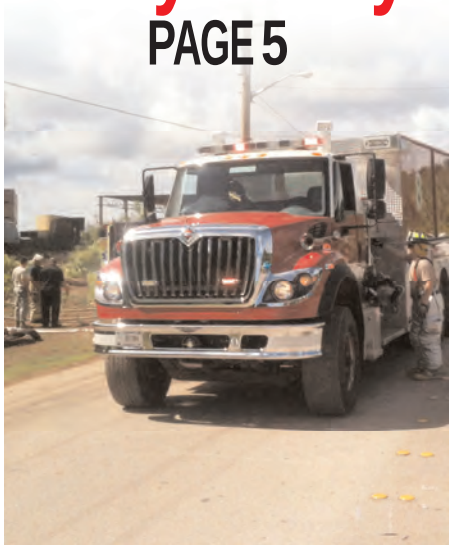

GW Sailors build bonds

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Joint Region Edge

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Absentee Voting Week on Andersen

By Airman 1st Class Mariah Haddenham
36th Wing Public Affairs

Absentee Voting Week is scheduled to take place on Andersen Air Force Base from Sept. 27 to Oct.4.

"The purpose of Absentee Voting Week is to help people register and receive their ballots in time," said said Maj. Jamal Williams, 36th Wing Force Support Squadron operations officer and this year's installation voting assistance officer. "Furthermore, those who have not received their ballots in the mail can receive a new ballot in order to place their vote in time."

It is recommended that members of Team Andersen fill out their ballots and mail them by Oct.16 so they arrive to their designated board of elections office in time.

The voters assistance office will have a booth set up in front of the Base Exchange every day during absentee voting week and will also make appearances at the dining facility and Coral Reef Fitness Center.

Those who have not registered to vote can do so at www fvap.gov or register using an absentee ballot that comes attached with a registration form.

More than half the states post absentee ballots online for military and overseas voters. Additionally, voters from all 55 states and territories can use the Federal Voting Assistance Program online Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot automated assistant to vote for at least all federal candidates.

"Voting is a right that you defend," Williams said. "It's a privilege and a right for you to determine the future of the country that you fight for."

COMMUNITY Corner

NEWS NOTES

Job Announcements
Interested individuals can view available vacancies by visiting https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Marianas/index.htm or at the Web site https://chart.donhr.navy.mil. For more information, call 349-6119/2224.

Andersen Air Force Base Mortuary Affairs Notice
Brig. Gen. Steven Garland, 36th Wing Commander, regretfully announces the death of Master Sgt. Philip N. Stoughton. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to the estate of Stoughton should contact Capt. Ruben Ligsay, Summary Court officer at 366-6313.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

The school bulletin aims to promote educational activities in the Navy and Air Force communities. If you know of an education-related event that you would like to include, send it to jointregionedge@fe.navy.mil or call 349-2115.

School Nurse Needed
Department of Defense Education Activity Guam District is looking for a school nurse to be split between Guam High School and Andersen Elementary School. Interested individuals may contact the district office at 344-9160.

Central Texas College
Register now! Central Texas College is a two-year, open admissions institution that offers associates degrees and certificates. We have five, eight-week terms per year. Term two for the 2012-2013 shcool year begins Oct. 22. We offer several distance learning courses that are perfect for the military lifestyle because they go where you go, whether you deploy, go temporary duty or permanent change of station. Last day of registration is Oct. 19. For more information, call 366-7133 or 339-3366.

movies • movies • movies

The Big Screen Theater

SEPTEMBER 28 (FRIDAY)		
4 PM	DIARY OF A WIMPY KID	PG
7 PM	TOTAL RECALL	PG-13
9:30 PM	THE CAMPAIGN	R
SEPTEMBER 29 (SATURDAY)		
1 PM	DIARY OF A WIMPY KID	PG
3:30 PM	STEP UP REVOLUTION (3-D)	PG-13
7 PM	THE WATCH	R
SEPTEMBER 30 (SUNDAY)		
1 PM	THE LORAX (3-D)	PG
3:30 PM	STEP UP REVOLUTION (3-D)	PG-13
7 PM	THE CAMPAIGN	

Movie Hotline 564-1831 US Naval Base Guam

Meehan Theater - TEMPORARILY CLOSED

Phone Numbers
Andersen Elementary School: 366-1511
Andersen Middle School: 366-3880/5793
Cmdr. William C. McCool Elementary/Middle School: 339-8676
Guam High School: 344-7410

MWR HAPPENINGS

U.S. Naval Base Guam

Fleet and Family Support Center Classes
Oct. 1-5: SAPR Academy from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Oct. 3: Surviving the holidays financially from Noon-1:30 p.m.
Oct. 4: Smooth Move Workshop from 9 a.m.-noon
For more information, call 333-2056

October Culinary Boot Camp
Learn how to cook traditional comfort foods during the October Culinary Boot Camp. This session will focus on comfort food dishes people prepare to make them feel at home and how to prepare them with a healthy twist. The boot camp is Oct. 10 from 5:30-9:30 p.m. Registration deadline is Oct. 9. For more information, call 685-5142.

36th FSS HAPPENINGS

Andersen Air Force Base

Airman and Family Readiness Center Classes
Oct. 9: Thrift Savings Plan from 9-10 a.m.
Oct. 10: Basic Budgeting from 9-10 a.m.
For more information, call 366-8136.

Free Outdoor Movie Night
Bring the entire family to the free outdoor movie night at Arc Light Park Oct. 13 at 7:30 p.m. The move will be the PG-rated animated film, "Hugo", and will be shown weather permitting. For more information, call 366-2339.

SPORTS SHORTS

U.S. Naval Base Guam

Self Defense Brazilian Jiu Jitsu
Sign up for Self-Defense Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Mondays and Wednesdays: Beginners class from 6-7 p.m. and advanced class from 7- 8 p.m. Saturday: Beginners class from 10 -11 a.m. and advanced class from 11 a.m.-noon. Age requirement: Students must be 6 years old or older to participate. Fee is $45 per student per calendar month. Register at the Charles King Fitness Center. Call 333-2049 for more information.

Andersen Air Force Base

Self-Defense Classes
Coral Reef Fitness Center now offers self-defense/Jiu jitsu classes Monday and Wednesday from 11 a.m.-noon and Saturdays from noon-1 p.m. for beginners. Advance student classes are Saturdays from 11 a.m.-noon. Classes are open to age 6 and older and is $45 per student per calendar month. For more information, call 366-6100.

Restricted Establishments

The Guam Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board has placed restrictions on the following establishments:

Club Romeo and Juliet in Tumon
- *Off-limits to all military personnel*

Club Lush in Tumon
- *Off-limits to military personnel ages 18-20 and all military personnel between 1-8 a.m.*

Service personnel, whether in uniform or in civilian clothing, found entering or leaving the establishments during the restricted periods may be subject to disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Team Andersen's Best:
Staff Sgt. Amanda Santiago

Hard Work Pays Off: Staff Sgt. Amanda Santiago, 36th Wing Munitions Squadron senior munitions controller, was awarded Team Andersen's Best on Andersen Air Force Base Sept. 20. U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Mariah Haddenham/Released

By Airman 1st Class Mariah Haddenham
36th Wing Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Amanda Santiago, 36th Wing Munitions Squadron (MUNS) senior munitions controller, was awarded Team Andersen's Best on Andersen Air Force Base Sept. 20.

"Sergeant Santiago controls and directs munitions, flightline deliveries and resupply activities," said Tech. Sgt. Elliott West, 36th MUNS controller and supervisor.

Santiago showed exceptional skill as a munitions controller during the 2012 Combat Ammunition Production Exercise.

"During this exercise, Sergeant Santiago also led the assembly and delivery of 1,500 assets with zero missed lines," West said. "For this, she was recognized by Pacific Air Forces evaluators as a 'Superior Performer' during the exercise."

West said that Santiago's ability to multi-task and train Airmen sets her among the best the Air Force has to offer.

Team Andersen's Best is a recognition program which highlights a top performer from the 36th Wing. Each week, supervisors nominate a member of their team for outstanding performance and the wing commander presents the selected Airman/civilian with an award.

To nominate your Airmen/civilian for Team Andersen's Best, contact your unit chief or superintendent explaining their accomplishments.

Fresh and So Clean: Seaman Ha Young, of Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Guam, paints the outside of Mangilao Karidat A during a community service project in Mangilao Sept. 20. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jeremy Starr/Released

NOSC Sailors
paint Mangilao Karidat A

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW) Jeremy Starr
U.S. Naval Base Guam Public Affairs

Twelve Sailors from Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Guam visited the Mangilao Karidat A, an adult mental health home, to provide community service (COMSERV) Sept. 20.

"Today we are painting the outside building of the Karidat Home run by the Catholic Social Services," said Yeoman 1st Class (EXW) Anna Aileen Espiritumoncrief, of NOSC Guam. "We started at 8 a.m. and we will continue to 4 p.m. to make sure we get the job done. We are trying to help them out by applying a fresh coat of paint to the exterior of the building so they can pass the inspection to continue assisting the community."

According to Espiritumoncrief the Mangilao Karidat A provides support to severely disabled individuals whose families are unable to provide care.

Mangilao Mayor Nito C. Blas visited the project to give his support and thank the Sailors.

"I feel very good and appreciate the Navy's help and concern and especially with this place here where the disabled people are being taken care of," Blas said. "We are very fortunate that these Sailors took time out of their jobs to help this place that doesn't receive enough funds to keep up their maintenance on a daily basis."

NOSC Commanding Officer Cmdr. John Montilla helped paint and provided extra supplies for the COMSERV.

"This is great to give back to Guam," he said. "It means a lot for me personally, I was born here but left when I was young and now being stationed here years later I wanted to give to Guam in both what I do professionally and what the NOSC can do in terms of community service."

Montilla said the NOSC Sailors have done a great job. He was amazed in how quickly and beautifully they had painted the building in such a short period of time.

To learn more about NBG, visit www.cnic.navy.mil/guam.

For more news from U.S. Naval Forces, Marianas, visit www.navy.mil/local/guam/.

EODMU5 Det. Marianas diffuses World War II-era projectile on NBG

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW) Jeremy Starr
U.S. Naval Base Guam Public Affairs

Sailors from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 5 Det. Marianas disposed of an unexploded ordnance (UXO) found in Sumay on U.S Naval Base Guam (NBG) Sept. 15.

"Construction workers unearthed the UXO during their operations," said Lt. Brent Wadsworth EODMU 5 Det. Marianas officer in charge.

The UXO was identified as a World War II-era, 5-inch projectile which had a sensitive MK-18 mechanical time fuse. This required Sailors to perform render safe procedures (RSP) before removal to a safe disposal site was possible.

The EOD technicians worked with NBG Security and U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam to safely evacuate manned buildings and waterways in the area and close off traffic prior to performing the RSP.

"Anytime EOD procedures are being performed, there is always the potential for the projectile to detonate as a result," Wadsworth said. "There was a bomb in Burma that killed 10 people a month ago, the same kind of bomb we find here on Guam."

Wadsworth said even though these bombs are 60-70 years old they still work and can cause damage unto the point of fatality.

Once all the safety precautions were in place and the waterways, roads, boats and buildings were evacuated, the team executed the EOD RSP.

Following proper RSP, the Sailors used a bullet modified to shoot a 2.5-inch slug at the firing mechanism of the 5-inch round. The slug destroyed the firing mechanism, rendering the round safe to transport to the EOD detonation range where it was destroyed.

"It is very important to get rid of these explosives that are left from (World War II)," said Capt. John Mendiola, of NBG Fire and Emergency Services. "We have a lot of exploding ammunition and explosives that are found on and off base by contractors or locals and that is why it is important to allow EOD disarm the explosives for the safety of our children and community."

Wadsworth advised base and island residents who come across UXOs to immediately contact the proper authorities and not to touch the device.

"These (World War II) rounds are still highly dangerous," Wadsworth said. "Anytime anyone comes across a round, do not touch it. The best action is to take note of the location then call 911 or base security immediately so we can dispose of the round properly."

EODMU 5 Det. Marianas is a forward-deployed mobile command providing EOD detachments and a fly-away recompression chamber detachment to the 7th Fleet. Their primary mission is to enable access for carrier and expeditionary strike groups, mine countermeasures operations and special operations forces. The secondary missions include supporting U.S. Secret Service and the command's naval operations sponsor in the testing and development of acquisition programs and their associated techniques and procedures.

To learn more about NBG, visit www.cnic.navy.mil/guam.

For more news from U.S. Naval Forces, Marianas, visit www.navy.mil/local/guam/.

Detonate: Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician (EOD) 3rd Class Andrew Dees, of EOD Det. 3 temporarily assigned to EOD Mobile Unit 5 Det. Marianas, arms the firing device to diffuse an unexploded ordnance on U.S. Naval Base Guam Sept. 15. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jeremy Starr/Released

DZSP 21 employee retires after 49 years

Above: DZSP21 celebrated the retirement of Heavy Mechanic Lead Edward Babauta with a luncheon at Building 3170 on U.S. Naval Base Guam Sept. 20. Guam Senators Tom Ada, Frank Blas and Judith Won Pat attended the event, offering Babauta their gratitude for 49 years of service at the transportation division. "This is my life," Babauta said. "This is where I built my house, this is where I feed my family…everything. I'm very happy to work with my people. I love them." U.S. Navy photo by Shaina Marie Santos/Released

Right: Guam Senator Tom Ada, right, presents Edward Babauta with a legislature resolution commending him for his achievements during his retirement ceremony at Building 3170 on U.S. Naval Base Guam Sept. 20. U.S. Navy photo by Shaina Marie Santos/Released

Environmental culture promotes well-being for all

By Shaina Marie Santos
Joint Region Edge Staff

When an environmental culture is in place and more people are aware of environmental issues and how to manage them, not only the environment, but quality of life is improved.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Marianas Environmental Compliance Engineer Julie Shane said the Navy and Department of Defense uses Environmental Management Systems (EMS) to maintain compliance and achieve environmental policy goals.

"EMS is a continuous cycle of 'plan, do, check, act' that brings together the people, policies, plans review mechanisms and procedures used to manage environmental issues at an installation," she said. "According to our EMS policy, everyone whose work can have an impact on the environment must understand their role in EMS; and that means you."

According to Shane, there are a number of environmental interactions for different work settings and ways to conserve and observe environmentally friendly practices.

"If you work in an office building, your environmental interaction, or aspects, might include waste generation, energy use and water use," she said. "Objectives can be as simple as recycling your soda cans, turning off lights and using the building's low flow fixtures."

Shane said there is much to be thankful for when it comes to Guam's resources, which highlights the need to conserve them.

From the tropical island setting, coral reefs, waterfalls to ancient Guam and war history, Shane encourages islanders to take advantage of the island environment.

"Think about the smog in Los Angeles and take a deep, grateful breath," she said. "Order a grilled fish for dinner that was swimming this morning. Look at the almost unreal colors of the ocean as you drive in to work each day and wave at the dolphins in Agat Bay or the mantas of Gun Beach."

Shane said emphasized that EMS encourages a unified approach to environmental protection and management, which will create long-term effects beneficial to all.

"Ask any member of NAVFAC whose responsibility safety is and you'll get a chorus responding 'it's everybody's!'" Shane said. "Ask them whose responsibility Environment Management is and you'll get a response like 'that EV dude over in B18001'. The correct answer (is) just like safety; (environment) is everybody's responsibility."

The right light levels for specific tasks

From the Department of the Navy's Toolkit

The Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) provides guidelines for the optimal light levels needed for various human tasks. The Navy generally follows IESNA guidelines, but even within the guidelines lighting designers are given substantial leeway. Here are some general rules of thumb about light levels:

• Light levels given are for a specific task, not an entire room. Even for a task that requires some of the highest light levels, surgery, would your doctor care about the light level on your foot if she's removing your tonsils? It's not likely. Use task lighting to put bright light on detail work.

• Light levels for office work are different based on whether you are predominantly reading text on paper or predominantly reading text on a computer monitor. In today's computer-based offices, 30 foot-candles is usually considered appropriate, as opposed to 50 foot-candles for yesterday's task of reading or typing text on paper all day. Although you will do both computer-based and non-computer-based tasks in your office, consideration should go to which is done for the longest periods of time. If you need more light for reading, ask for a task light.

• Light levels recommended for general navigation are much lower than those recommended for more detailed visual tasks. Hallway lighting can be much lower than office lighting, with 10 foot-candles generally considered adequate. Two foot-candles should be plenty for night lighting in parking lots.

Andersen fire department trains for any disaster

By Airman 1st Class Mariah Haddenham
36th Wing Public Affairs

The 36th Civil Engineer Squadron's (CES) fire protection flight responds to all emergencies on Andersen Air Force Base, whether they are from natural causes or manmade.

The flight is certified to fight aircraft fires, building fires, wild land or grass fires and car fires. The flight also responds to hazardous materials spills, high-angle rescue or cliff-side rescue, confined space rescue and even water rescue with their fleet of jet skis.

"We perform these critical life-saving missions with the assistance of a manned ambulance from the 36th Medical Group that responds from fire station one," said Master Sgt. (Ret.) John Thompson, 36th CES fire chief. "We also get assistance from the Guam Fire Department and (U.S.) Naval Base Guam's fire department."

Usually, there are 13 on-duty firefighters ready to respond to any of the above emergencies.

"Our required response times vary from as little as 60 seconds for preannounced aircraft emergencies, such as in-flight emergencies, to as long as seven minutes for building or medical emergencies," Thompson said. "So that seven minutes is broken down into one minute to answer the 911 call and dispatch the crews; one minute for the crews to gear up and five minutes for the crews to arrive on scene."

The most common emergencies the Andersen fire department encounters are medical emergencies, from sprained ankles to cardiac arrest and health conditions requiring CPR. They also deal with common automatic fire alarms at buildings on base, where the department will respond to the facility and investigate why the installed fire system was set off.

"Our most common aircraft call is an in-flight emergency," said Senior Airman Brian Lovelady, 36th CES firefighter. "Crews are responsible to be on scene within 60 seconds and set up along the landing runway, prepared for the aircraft's arrival."

Firefighters will approach the running aircraft and chalk the aircrafts wheels after the aircraft comes to rest, while the incident commander talks with the aircraft commander to diagnose the problem.

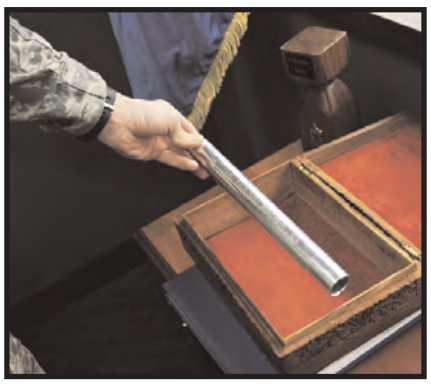
"Andersen firefighters must complete significant amounts of training to keep us at the top of our game and ready to respond to all the situations we could face here on base," Thompson said. "Just trying to stay proficient on the dozens of different airframes that frequent our base is a full-time job."

The firefighters are always current on CPR and Emergency Medical Technician training for medical calls and on aircraft, building live-fire, hazardous materials, and water rescue training monthly.

"Bottom line,the men and women in the Andersen fire department are on our game in protecting the lives of those that live and work on Andersen and supporting the mission," Thompson said.

Ready and Raring to Go: Airman 1st Class Larry Gish, 36th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, dons his personal protective gear in preparation for an in-flight emergency on Andersen Air Force Base Sept. 18. The Andersen fire department is trained to respond to a wide variety of scenarios, including but not limited to wild fires, in-flight emergencies, car fires and medical emergencies. U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jeffrey Schultze/Released

Team Andersen remembers POWs, MIAs



Left: The Prisoner of War and Missing in Action baton is placed back into its case at the closing ceremony on Andersen Air Force Base Sept. 21. The baton will rest here until next year's run when it will be brought out again to complete the 24-hour vigil. U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Carlin Leslie/Released

Middle: Col. Donald R. Dreschler, 36th Wing vice commander, and honored guest Fransico Carbullido, a World War II Prisoner of War, place a wreath at the base of the Andersen Air Force Base memorial honoring the fallen, Sept. 21. Carbullido was taken as a POW and spent three and a half years in Japanese and Chinese prison camps before returning to Guam. As the last surviving World War II Wake Island defender, he has received special recognition from Congress. U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Carlin Leslie/Released

Right: Senior Airman Daniel Guy, 736th Security Forces Squadron, runs with the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Flag during the POW/MIA 24-hour memorial run at Arc Light Park on Andersen Air Force Base Sept. 21. Members of Team Andersen took turns running all through the night until the ceremony that was held on Sept. 21. U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Carlin Leslie/Released

A flyer's life is rigger business

By Airman 1st Class Marianique Santos
36th Wing Public Affairs

During Air Force Basic Military Training inspections, living areas, rolled shirts and folded socks should be flawless, emphasizing and engraining attention to detail in the minds of trainees. Though some may think that they can relax after graduation, for one career field, perfection in rolls, folds and inspections, remains paramount in their list of duties.

The 36th Operations Support Squadron's (OSS) aircrew flight equipment section supports the mission by providing pilots and aircrews with life-sustaining equipment required for flying missions. The flight makes sure parachutes, harnesses, helmets and masks are free from damage that may cause malfunctions and are ready for use.

"Providing the pilots with quality, serviceable life sustaining equipment helps them focus on the mission at hand," said Master Sgt. James Buckley, 36th OSS aircrew flight equipment superintendent. "The worst thing that could happen is have a pilot or aircrew member distracted from what they're supposed to do due to equipment malfunction that we could have prevented."

When the bombers or the fighters come to Andersen Air Force Base, they bring a flight equipment crew to support their unit's mission. The 36th OSS aircrew flight equipment flight facilitates and supports by providing them with work space and equipment.

Additionally, the flight supports the 36th Contingency Response Group and provides Andersen's flight doctors with parachutes and other flight equipment.

"They take care of the pilots and the aircrews, while I take care of our jumpers here," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Kitts, 36th OSS aircrew flight equipment noncommissioned officer in charge.

"I'm the only one in the shop permanently stationed here," Kitts continued. "There are times when it gets overwhelming, but when I need help, I can always go to Sgt. Buckley, the fighter guys or the bombers guys for assistance."

Aside from making sure that the life-sustaining equipments are serviceable, aircrew flight equipment Airmen also provide training for situational flyers, such as Airmen who participate in incentive flights.

"There is important knowledge on the processes of utilizing the life-sustaining equipment that Airmen need to know," Buckley said. "It is important that we train those who are not accustomed to being on an aircraft and get them comfortable using these equipment, especially in case of a flight emergency."

By the book, a normal repack for a parachute runs from 30-45 minutes. If a parachute has already been used for a jump, the parachute is likely to have tangles and damage.

Chute Check: Staff Sgt. Christopher Kitts, 36th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment specialist, checks over a parachute on Andersen Air Force Base Sept. 11. Kitts is inspecting for rips and tears or torn lines at the bottom of the chute. U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Carlin Leslie/Released

These repairs usually take from 45 minutes to an hour and a half depending on a parachute's condition.

The job involves a lot of repetition as the technicians see the same equipment and follow the same procedures during every inspection.

"If you don't have the motivation and concentration levels to do things correctly, you will place a person's life in danger," Kitts said. "We can't afford to get complacent and get into the habit of fixing the same discrepancies repeatedly, overlooking the other problems that the equipment may have.

"A technician has to be fully aware of what's going on," he said. "Because if he misses one step and someone gets injured, it's on him."

The flight practices quality control by maintaining a record of each piece of life-sustaining equipment in an inspection database. In the event that the parachute did not deploy or a piece of equipment malfunctioned, all activities can be tracked from the first in-process inspection to the latest packing.

The processes and the record-keeping the Airmen follow make sure that the equipment is serviceable as it passes from technician to technician, up until the equipment is used.

"It is important for our Airmen to have the knowledge of the guidance and different directives that govern what we do every day," Buckley said.

"There is zero margin for error in this career field," he continued. "We cannot afford to have anything go wrong with a parachute. When someone cuts corners, they put the life of the equipment user at significant risk."

The technicians take a lot of pride in their jobs, pride that was engrained from the moment they got to their technical schools.

"From day one, they are given the importance of what we do and why we should do it the way we were taught," Buckley said. "We train knowing that our technicians will bring the same knowledge, values and habits to their operational units."

As pilots, crew chiefs and other Airmen continue to take to the skies in fulfilling the Air Force mission, the Airmen of aircrew flight equipment will continue to work diligently, meticulously, knowing that "(the Airman's] life is (their] business" and making sure that the equipment they provide would be "the last to let (the Airmen)down."

Andersen to host first open house since 2009

Open House: The Pacific Air Force F-16 Demonstration Team will be the headlining act at the 2012 Andersen Air Force Base Open House Oct. 13. The open house will be Team Andersen's first since 2009, providing the entire island of Guam an opportunity to experience the wing's mission. Gates open at 8 a.m., with the event starting at 9 a.m. and running until 4 p.m. For more information, visit the open house's official website at http://www.andersen.af.mil/andersenafbopenhouse.asp. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

SUPPORT: 36th Wing accomodates visiting Airmen's needs

Continued from Page 1

it's making sure they have everything they need to do their mission until it's time for them to go back," said Maj. Nicole Fuller, 36th Logistics Readiness Squadron (LRS) commander and reception working group lead. "We make sure that the Airmen have a place to sleep, eat and have cars to drive if their maintainers need to go to the flightline to fix the aircraft. We also take care of their cargo and provide them with support equipment that they need to sustain their mission while they're here."

Initially, the base that the evacuating aircraft are from will work with their Installation Deployment and Reception Center. The personnel from the originating base deploy their evacuating aircraft and personnel, then contact the destination base and inform them the numbers of incoming personnel, aircraft and equipment.

"The process is seamless when we know the numbers," Fuller said. "With this information we can prepare to receive and take care of the evacuating aircraft and personnel during their time on Andersen."

After the information has been received, the 36th LRS divides the tasks through a worksheet that consists of the needs of the evacuees. The corresponding units then check-off their designated tasks.

"There are many moving pieces and people involved," Matthews said. "We all band together to make it happen."

One of the first units notified after receiving an evacuation support request is the 36th Force Support Squadron (FSS). The members of the sustainment services flight are responsible for making sure the Airmen associated with the evacuating aircraft are accommodated.

"We do everything to make sure they get their nutritional needs and are bedded down," said Capt. Jesse Calland, 36th FSS sustainment services flight commander. "Everyone who transits through this base goes through us for lodging. We try to keep personnel in the best conditions possible. With the hard work of lodging manager Barbie Wills, our two-person reservations team supports all the accommodations."

Flight Check: An F-15 Eagles and other aircraft from Kadena Air Base, Japan park on the flightline at Andersen Air Force Base Sept. 17. The aircraft were evacuated here from Kadena due to the typhoon threat in Okinawa, Japan and inclement weather throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Historically, aircraft from throughout the region have evacuated to Andersen in times of threatening weather to ensure no damage occurs to the aircraft U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alexandre Montes/Released

During Valiant Shield 2012 there were no availabilities on base. The sustainment flight searched off base and worked out reservations across approximately 14 hotels. In September, 2,400 reservations were made in order to support the exercises and the evacuation.

With the Airmen accommodated by the 36th FSS, the 36th OSS gets the aircraft situated by providing the planes with spaces on the flightline.

Multiple factors are taken into consideration when parking aircraft: different air frames, missions, circles of safety, protection levels and additional issues. The 36th OSS takes all of these factors in consideration when providing the evacuees a slot on the flightline, especially when there are a significant number of airframes already present, which was the case when Kadena Air Base, Japan evacuated their aircraft here during Valiant Shield 2012.

Additionally, 36th OSS provides evacuating aircrews with airfield driving training and vital flightline information. The unit accomplishes this through a "windshield tour" that shows the Airmen the flightline layout, from designated parking spaces to areas affected by activities like construction.

"We also make sure we train the incoming individuals on airfield driving," Matthews said. "They need to know what is currently happening on the flightline so that they can be safe and proficient while they are here."

The 36th OSS has more than 60 million square feet of real estate to work with; however, with large-scale exercises like Valiant Shield, the unit works even harder in order to make sure that all the operations can coexist on the flightline.

"Aircraft-heavy exercises like Valiant Shield and real-world scenarios simultaneously occurring test our creativity and the extent of our capabilities, but we'll always make it happen," Matthews said. "We've opened ramps that have been closed and worked with the 36th Civil Engineering Squadron to make sure the areas are structurally sound to hold heavy aircraft."

KC-135 Stratotankers, C-130 Hercules, F-15 Eagles, F-16 Fighting Falcons and U.S. Navy's P-3 Orions and A-3 Skywarriors are some of the airframes that have taken refuge on Andersen.

With the aircraft situated on designated parking areas, the reception team makes sure they are in serviceable condition and ready to return to home station once it is possible.

The 36th Maintenance Squadron (MXS) prepares work areas for the incoming aircraft. They provide facilities and support from establishing maintenance operations centers, which coordinate with 36th Wing and disseminate vital information to the maintenance team, to providing structural and mechanical maintenance support for the aircraft.

"We are responsible for setting up facilities for the incoming aircraft and maintainers," said Tech. Sgt. Alan Stutzman, 36th MXS program flight chief maintenance lead for the reception working group. "We have hangars that we divvy up to the evacuees. We schedule around the current maintenance that's going on when needed."

"The goal is to help them maintain their normal operations and keep their sortie generation up," Stutzman continued. "We posture for these planes to fly their sorties like they were at their home station."

With this year's heightened weather activity in the Pacific, Andersen's strategic location has become an ideal evacuation location for neighboring bases in the Asia-Pacific region.

"We're on American soil, not much coordination is needed to land here," Fuller said. "Beyond that, we have ranges available to their pilots to continue their training. We have a huge ramp and resources to accommodate them. With the proper coordination we can have all these resources lined up for them the moment they arrive."

Though accustomed to providing support having evacuations coincide with large-scale exercises like Valiant Shield have tested the units' capabilities. Such have proven that at times of emergency, the 36th Wing will always deliver and provide a mission-conducive haven for service members and the Department of Defense's valuable assets.

PROGRAM: Volunteers offer time to support commands

Continued from Page 1

leadership level, we focus on mission a lot and we sometimes lose focus on those families," he said. "The ombudsman is there to do that conduit in communication and the important thing is…they're volunteers and patriots and offer their own free time to support the command and families and take care of them."

Following his speech, Navy and Coast Guard commands presented certificates of appreciation to their ombudsmen.

Maritime Expeditionary Security Group 1 Det. Guam Ombudsman Vanessa Weiderhoeft said she was grateful for the Fleet and Family Support Center's (FFSC) appreciation for what ombudsmen do.

"I really enjoy the role of co-ombudsman," she said. "It's been in my heart to really help other spouses and families and to just kind of be that person they can go to with my co-ombudsmen if they need help or if they just need someone to listen to them; or they need to know how to contact somebody…whatever it may be, just knowing they have someone there they can trust; and we're there 24/7 for them."

FFSC Ombudsman Coordinator Heather Horvath said having been an ombudsman; she understands the amount of work that is put into the task.

"Being an ombudsman is often classified as a thankless job because there's so much work that goes into helping families, serving 24/7, whether it's an e-mail, a phone call or getting vital information out that's vital to the quality of life for our family members here," she said. "So just to get that extra recognition and say thank you to them; they're the people that least expect it, but they're the most grateful for it."

The Navy Family Ombudsman Program was established in 1970 by Adm. Elmo Zumwalt to address the needs of military families. Since then, ombudsmen have worked to keep families and commanding officers informed, taking care of families in times of need.

For more information about the Navy's ombudsman program, contact FFSC at 333-2056.

Guest Speaker: U.S. Naval Base Guam Commanding Officer Capt. Mike Ward speaks during an annual ombudsman appreciation luncheon at the Top O' the Mar in Asan Sept. 21. U.S. Navy photo by Shaina Marie Santos/Released

GW Sailors spend time on Guam

Hardworking Sailors: Sailors from the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS George Washington paint a wall during a community service project in Wettengel Elementary School in Dededo Sept. 22. George Washington and its embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5, provide a combat-ready force that protects and defends the collective maritime interest of the U.S. and its allies and partners in the Asia-Pacific region.U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Ricardo R. Guzman/Released

Career Talk: Lt. j.g. Chris Aldrich, from Phoenix, Ariz., assigned to the "Chargers" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 14, discusses daily shipboard life with schoolchildren during a public tour aboard the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73) on U.S. Naval Base Guam Sept. 22. U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Justin E. Yarborough/Released

Only for the Sweet Tooth: Electronics Technician 2nd Class Arlene Narciso, from Lihue, Hawaii, a Sailor stationed aboard the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73), center, cuts an appreciation cake with fellow Sailors after a community service project at the Guam Memorial Hospital in Tamuning Sept. 22. U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class William Pittman/Released

Above: Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fueling) 2nd Class Gina Dailey, from Dededo, Guam, pulls dry paint from the wall of Wettengel Elementary School during a community project event between the school and the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73) in Dededo Sept. 22. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Ricardo R. Guzman/Released

Left: Sailors from the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73) paint a structure during a community service project at Wettengel Elementary School in Dededo Sept. 22. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Ricardo R. Guzman/Released

All Smiles: Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 1st Class Barreka Graves, from Mooresville, N.C., celebrates a victory with an athlete from Special Olympics Guam during a community service event hosted by the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS George Washington's (CVN 73) First Class Petty Officer Association at Century Lanes in Tamuning Sept. 22. George Washington and its embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5, provide a combat-ready force that protects and defends the collective maritime interest of the U.S. and its allies and partners in the Asia-Pacific region. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Alexander W. Cabrall/Released

Setting Up: Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class Orenn Graham, from Silver Springs, Md., right, and Aviation Electrician's Mate 1st Class Dawn Little, from Morganton, N.C., left, provide assistance for an athlete from Special Olympics Guam during a community service event hosted by the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS George Washington's (CVN 73) First Class Petty Officer Association at Century Lanes in Tamuning Sept. 22. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Alexander W. Cabrall/Released

Rolling Along: Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Robert Welsh, from Flemington, N. J., provides assistance for an athlete from Special Olympics Guam during a community service event hosted by the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS George Washington's (CVN 73) First Class Petty Officer Association at Century Lanes in Tamuning Sept. 22. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Alexander W. Cabrall/Released

George Washington Sailors coach Special Olympics Guam athletes

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Alexander W. Cabrall
USS George Washington (CVN 73) Public Affairs

Sailors from the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS George Washington's (CVN 73) First Class Petty Officers Association (FCPOA) visited Guam's Central Lanes Bowling center to coach members of Special Olympics Guam's bowling team during a community service event in Tamuning Sept. 22.

The sounds of pins clattering together mixed with the excited cries and wild applause from the Sailors and athletes in the bowling center made for a special moment for those involved.

"We are very fortunate to be able to work with these children and those with special needs," said Lt. Cmdr. Young Song, a chaplain aboard George Washington. "The children appreciate the Sailors so much and it shows how much our Sailors care for our special people."

George Washington's FCPOA worked closely with the Command Religious Ministries Department team to coordinate and execute the event.

"We all got together as a mess and wanted to do something to help out the community and lead from the front," said Intelligence Specialist 1st Class Xavier Harvey, from Houston. "It's an opportunity to put our best face forward and work within the local community."

"This was a great opportunity, and I always enjoy working with special-needs kids," said Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 1st Class Barreka Graves. "It's great watching them come back from a strike or spare; they're all smiles and you can tell they're having fun."

The two-hour session provided the athletes with vital practice for their upcoming tournament in October.

"Events like this allow our athletes to be involved at the local level," said Senior Chief Master-at-Arms (SW/AW) Chiniece Lawson, of U.S. Naval Base Guam Security and a board member of Special Olympics Guam. "This is the first event in our fall series, which also includes sports such as golf."

"Bowling is very popular on Guam, and the athletes are always asking, 'When is bowling?'" said Carole Pircy, an event coordinator for Special Olympics Guam. "It's a great event to get them all together and socializing."

The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier is currently conducting its 2012 patrol in the 7th Fleet area of operations, and recently completed the U.S.-joint exercise Valiant Shield 2012 in the Guam operating area.

George Washington and its embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing 5, provide a combat-ready force that protects and defends the collective maritime interests of the U.S. and its partners and allies in the Asia-Pacific region.

For more information, visit www.navy.mil, www.facebook.com/usnavy, or www.twitter.com/usnavy.

For more news from USS George Washington (CVN 73), visit www.navy.mil/local/cvn73/.

Coming Together: Sailors from the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS George Washington's (CVN 73) First Class Petty Officer Association (FCPOA) and athletes from Special Olympics Guam pose for a group photograph during a community service event hosted by the FCPOA at Century Lanes in Tamuning Sept. 22. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Alexander W. Cabrall/Released

NAVFAC MARIANAS

husband and wife team up

By Shaina Marie Santos
Joint Region Edge Staff

At Naval Facilities and Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Marianas, John and Desiree Masterson are a married couple who work together to serve the same mission.

Married for almost eight years, the Mastersons met at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C., where they worked together on environmental projects.

"We got to know each other outside the work environment, taking swing dance classes," Desiree said.

"After one year of meeting, John proposed on the shore of George Washington's Mount Vernon estate and I happily accepted."

Today, John Masterson is the legal counsel for NAVFAC Marianas and manages the four-person legal office, providing support on every aspect of NAVFAC's mission in the region.

Desiree Masterson is the Regional Energy Program manager under Joint Region Marianas and NAVFAC Marianas and works to coordinate shore energy initiatives to meet federal, Department of Defense, Navy and regional energy efficiency, water conservation and renewable energy goals and mandates.

Though working in separate fields, Desiree said she and John sometimes work on the same issues and find it very helpful to be working for the same goals.

"Getting each other's perspective provides better understanding," she said. "In this way, we're able to collaborate and develop and propose sounder solutions that fit both legally and practically."

Though their built-in goals at work help to bring them together, the couple manages to keep work out of their personal lives and take up a number of hobbies together from reading, cooking and gardening to exercise.

"We can leave work at work because we've already shared it," Desiree said. "It's easier to let go because when we do share, we both have a good understanding. It leads to deeper sharing, which is important because work is the most demanding part of our lives right now."

Dynamic Duo: Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Marianas Legal Counsel John Masterson and his wife Joint Region Marianas Regional Energy Manager Desiree, take a photo in front of the NAVFAC Marianas headquarters in Asan Sept. 17. U.S. Navy photo by Shaina Marie Santos/Released

NINTH ANNUAL TRAVEL FAIR

to inspire explorers

By Shaina Marie Santos
Joint Region Edge Staff

Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Guam and the 36th Force Support Squadron (FSS) are hosting the Ninth Annual Travel Fair in October.

The Travel Fair will be hosted from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Top O' the Mar Oct. 3 and at the Sunrise Conference Center on Andersen Air Force Base Oct. 4. Admission is free.

According to MWR Guam Information, Tickets and Travel (ITT) Travel Agent Carly Macias, the purpose of the Travel Fair is to display travel opportunities military families have during their time on Guam.

"(The fair) will show them things to do locally and abroad," she said. "It gives the military personnel a chance to speak with representatives from countries or islands, ask questions and understand more about that destination or place."

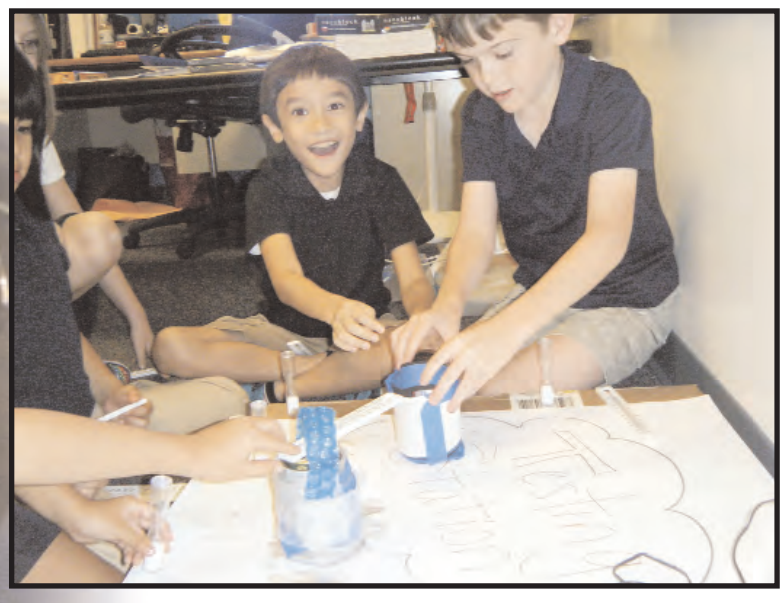
Attendees should be prepared to leave with a variety of information, brochures and possibly prizes. During the fair, attendees will also have the chance to watch a number of videos and witness demonstrations.

Macias said she hopes attendees will gain more knowledge about what the ITT offices have to offer.

"While we know being on Guam makes most of our military families so far from home, this also means they are so close to other places," she said. "Guam is in the Pacific (Ocean) and so close to Asia and Australia. I hope they will use that to try to travel and explore what is out there."

For more information about the fair at Top O' the Mar call 989-2301. For more information about the fair at the Sunrise Conference Center, call 366-2586.

MEMS students explore ideas



Above: Cmdr. William C. McCool Elementary and Middle School fifth graders work together to design marble track races using right angles during a class a the school on U.S. Naval Base Guam Sept. 21. Photo courtesy of Debora Moore

Top Right: Cmdr. William C. McCool Elementary and Middle School third graders use handheld temperature probes to check the temperature of liquids during a class at the school on U.S. Naval Base Guam Sept. 13. Photo courtesy of Debora Moore

Right: Cmdr. William C. McCool Elementary and Middle School second graders work together to build vehicles to travel to the moon during a class at the school on U.S. Naval Base Guam Sept. 14. Photo courtesy of Debora Moore

Chapel Schedule

U.S. Naval Base Guam

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Roman Catholic Mass

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 5 p.m.

Protestant Worship Service

Sunday Service: Traditional and Contemporary Service: 10:30 a.m.

Jewish Shabbat

Friday, 6:30 p.m.

Naval Hospital Guam

Roman Catholic Mass
Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.

Chapel of Hope: Sunday, 9 a.m.

Women's Bible Study: Every second and fourth Saturday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at the Fellowship Hall, Building 61

Andersen Air Force Base

Roman Catholic Mass (Chapel 1)

Weekday Mass: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 11:30 a.m.

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5 p.m.

Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:30-4:50 p.m.

Military Council of Catholic Women: Second and fourth Tuesday of the month, Chapel 1 Annex, 6:30 p.m.

Catholic Youth of the Chapel: Second and fourth Wednesday of the month, Chapel 1 Annex, 6:30 p.m.

Catholic Men of the Chapel: First and third Tuesday of the month, Chapel 1 Annex, 6 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal: Chapel 1, Saturday 4-5 p.m. and Sunday, 8-9 a.m.

Protestant Worship Service

Praise Service: Sunday, Chapel 2, 9 a.m.

Liturgical Service: Sunday, Lighthouse, 9 a.m.

Gospel Service: Sunday, Chapel 2, 11:30 a.m.

Emerging Worship Service: Sunday, Lighthouse, 5 p.m.

Protestant Women of the Chapel: Second Monday of each month, Chapel 2 Annex, 6:30 p.m.; Wednesdays (September-May), Chapel 2 Annex, 8 a.m.

Protestant Men of the Chapel: Wednesday, Lighthouse, 6 p.m.; First Saturday of the month, Chapel 2 Annex, 8 a.m.

Protestant Youth of the Chapel: Thursday, Chapel 2 Annex, 7 p.m.

Protestant Single/Unaccompanied: Thursday, Lighthouse, 6 p.m.

Protestant Sunday School: (September-May) Sunday, Chapel Activity Center, 10:15 a.m.

Schedules subject to change. To confirm times or for information about other programs, call the chapels at:

Andersen Air Force Base:
366-6139

U.S. Naval Base Guam
339-2126

U.S. Naval Hospital Guam:
344-9127

New life

By Lt. Matthew Drayton
U.S. Naval Base Guam Chaplain

CHAPLAIN'S Corner

Have you ever seen a baseball turn into a watermelon? One busy day, my life slowed down and I witnessed a true miracle.

"Ring, ring," the phone rang. My friend picked it up and then handed the phone to me. Knowing what this might mean, I became excited. I snapped the phone from his hands and without asking anything, put the phone to my ear and said, "Is this it?" Her response was, "Yes, I'm pretty sure it is!"

I hurriedly got my jacket on while the phone was still in my hands and assured her that I'd be there in minutes. I went through every encouraging word I could think of until she finally told me to just, "hang up and get home." I told her I was coming, quickly said goodbye, waved to my friend and busted out the door. I was true to my word, I got home in minutes. My wife was doing well, but certainly wasn't comfortable. It felt like a two minute drive to the hospital, though in reality it was 15 miles.

The next 20 hours were intense. Having been a college athlete, my wife could take some serious pain but this was different from any pain she'd experienced before. I was nervous for her health, emotions ran high and she was physically exhausted. So was I. The time was getting closer and her pain was increasing. The doctor said it would be soon. We walked into a new and special room so we could have privacy and access to proper equipment. After an hour of pacing and changing positions, the nurse told her she should now position herself on the bed. I got on the bed first and she leaned back on me as if I were her Lazy Boy recliner. I held her tight and she used my feet as stirrups. We were both uncomfortable and nobody seemed to care about my cramping leg.

We had both anticipated what this moment would be like but it was all so different. The smells were different. The energy was different. It was now out of our control. All she could do is obey each contraction. After what must have been 100 pushes, the nurse told us to look down and see what she saw. I followed her command, encouraged my wife and saw what looked like a baseball making its way to the surface. I looked at my wife and cheered even more. That was my son I was seeing. I exuberantly said, "Look its our son!"

As the next few moments continued, it was as if time was standing still, then all of a sudden something happened. That small baseball turned itself into a watermelon. I said to myself, "How is this happening?" I looked at her and asked perhaps the most insensitive question I could have asked, "Are you OK?" Her response was humorous, but it was then the miracle occurred. His full and beautiful head emerged into the world for the first time and his eyes were wide open, looking directly at me. My heart melted. I couldn't speak. The rest of the work for my wife seemed easy compared to what she had just been through and my son was born.

I had already loved him for months, but now he finally recognized me. No more cord, no more fluid, no darkness, just the breath of life, a little milk, and living. In every sense of the word, he could now feel the love of his father and it all changed in those miraculous minutes. I was overwhelmed and could not help but give thanks at this time to my father in heaven. It was then, like a lightning bolt to the heart, it powerfully occurred to me that my son's grand welcome to the world was incredibly similar to my coming to faith. Not that I was actually physically reborn, but that I now had new life, new perspective and for the first time could now feel the love of my father. This brief moment finally helped me to warmly grasp the highly politicized term 'born again'. I felt even more blessed by the revelation.

That was seven years and three sons ago and just this past week Sept. 13 my first daughter "Madeline" was born at U.S. Naval Hospital Guam. I have been truly blessed to have witnessed four true miracles, each birth unique and beautiful, but each one bringing me to a deeper and fuller comprehension of the depth of love our rather in heaven has for us.

Our Father in Heaven says, "Before I formed you in the womb… "I knew you"(Jeremiah 1:5) and all he wants to do is... 'lavish His love upon us '(1John 3:1), but we must all, in the best sense of the term, be 'born again' through faith (John 3:3).

What a metaphor! What a truth! May this new life embrace us all, in a new and fresh way. May we all come face to face with our heavenly father who loves us.

Classifieds

Panthers football more than a dream

In It to Win It: Guam High School Panthers football players prepare to face the John F. Kennedy Islanders during a game in Tamuning Aug. 25. The Panthers beat the Islanders 40-0 making it their first win of the season. To date, the Panthers are undefeated in the Independent Interscholastic Athletic Association of Guam football league. Photo courtesy of Guam High School

Take a Knee: Guam High School Panthers football team coaches share a few words with the players during a game against the John F. Kennedy Islanders in Tamuning Aug. 25. Photo courtesy of Guam High School

Ready, Break: The Guam High School Panthers football team raise their helmets in a huddle during a game against the John F. Kennedy Islanders in Tamuning Aug. 25. Photo courtesy of Guam High School

By Jacob Dowdell
Guam High School Football Coach

After 20 years of coaching and a number of championships of my own, I can without reservation stay it is official, "The Guam High School (GHS) Panthers football program is here to stay."

It has been my pleasure to watch and be a part of the transformation of Panther football. Back in 2006-2007 when I first arrived on island you had a group of kids playing football. Coach Brandon Miller brought in the concept of football players being student athletes and the importance of being a team, mind you at the time they were still going to school up at, "The Hill," the new home of the Joint Region Marianas Headquarters. It was a far cry from what is today. Back then students were in class there and the football team practiced on the 20-by-40 yard sections of mostly coral-free grass in the back of the building. There we laid the foundation for future success by starting the first ever weight training program.

When we moved to the new building in Agana Heights, the Panthers were still without a home field because although the new school was ready the football field was not. Miller worked with the Navy command and secured more weights and personally hauled weights to make a small but effective gym. After all of this hard work and effort, he was rewarded with, the highest finish up until that time, a third place victory over the George Washington (GW) High School Geckos on their home turf.

I left along with Miller after that season knowing that we had established a true team spirit. But more importantly we had mentored a young offensive coordinator named Kenny Williams, who we both knew had what it took to win a championship because he was hardworking, humble and a student of the game. He would just need a strong defensive coach to help him accomplish what we both knew was inevitable. In comes Coach Billy Henry, an experienced defensive-minded coach with tons of experience.

Their first year together in 2009 they repeated the success of the year prior. Then the stars lined up for the Panthers at the start of the 2010 summer camp. A group of monster offensive linemen aka "Big Nasties," emerged out the weight rooms of the off-season.

Devon Jacobs (the best offensive player who ever played on this island), Paul Floyd, moved over from middle linebacker to quarterback, to date the best quarterback we have had, LJ (current GHS quarterback) is nipping at his heals for that honor though and I returned to Guam fresh off of capturing another championship in Virginia. I looked at that group that we had assembled the first day of practice and I told them that I could smell champions then I named them the "Dirty Thirty."

True to form we won the championship on the back of that massive offensive line that was comprised of young men with nicknames like Rhino, Big Sexy, Tank, Chocolate Thunder and T-Rock. We won it all, we were champions, we were a team. But a team does not equal long term success, for that you need a program. At the heart of any long-term successful program there is mentoring from player-to-player and coach-to-coach.

The next year 2011 I took over as head coach. The then much heralded offensive line had graduated and no one expected us to do much based on the number of seniors we lost. But that is where mentoring pays off. Players remembered the lessons learned from teammates on the sidelines in the space of a 33-second mentoring conversation before coach calls you back into the game. We made our way back to the championship but fell short to a strong GW team. We lost more seniors last year, with our three standout losses coming in the form of bookend Theatris Eaton and Nijjee Smith, DJ Cruz, pound for pound one of the toughest runners I have ever seen, and Matthew Eaton, a sophomore 6'4" receiver who will most certainly go play division one football back in the states. We were thought to be back in the cellar by most, to the point that this year when we faced GW, seven out of the eight pigskin prognosticators from the local paper picked GW over us.

They did not know about our secret weapons, mentoring and Panther Nation (dedicated moms and dads). I brought DJ Cruz to speak to the players about what takes to win. Is he and effective speaker you wonder? Currently, we are 5-0 ranked number one on island and in the top three in the Pacific region, you be the judge.

Finally we flew to Okinawa this past weekend with the support of Panther Nation, namely Mamma Brown,(I don't think she has a first name), Mrs. Jacobs and Mr. Domingo who all paid out of their own pocket to fly down ahead of us to set up and ensure that we had everything that we needed for the players. We did something that has never been done in school history. We beat another Department of Defense school.

We are a program. We are GHS.